

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 02956 271022Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-07 SS-15 NSC-05
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /052 W
-----095834 271032Z /20
R 271000Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7278

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 2956

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAID,HNS, NG
SUBJ: CALL ON PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE

1. CHARGE AND RDO CALLED ON PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE JUNE 25
FOR OVERVIEW OF AID PROGRAMS ON OCCASION END OF RDO'S TOUR
IN NIGER. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION WHICH CONSTRUCTIVE AND
AMICABLE BEING REPORTED SEPARATELY. I WAS STRUCK, HOWEVER,
BY TWO OF PRESIDENT'S REMAKKS WHICH INDICATE ON-GOING AREAS
OF CONCERN IN OUR ELATIONS WITH NIGER.

2. IN SPEAKING TO GENERAL THEME OF DROUGHT PRESIDENT SAID
THAT DONORS SHOULD NOT BE OVERLY SANGUINE ABOUT RECOVERY
IN SAHEL. PRESENT FOOD SITUATION IN UPPER VOLTA, CHAD,
AND BENIN PLUS FACT THAT NIGER HAD TO BUY 20,000 TONS
THISYEAR SHOW HOW FRAGILE SITUATION REMAINS. IN THIS
CONTEXT, PRESIDENT ALLUDED ON THREE SEPARATE OCCASIONS TO
INABILITY OF U.S. TO DELIVER 4500 TONS OF SORGHUM WHICH HE
HAD REPORTEDLY REQUESTED LAST YEAR.PRESIDENTS REFERENCES
TO EPISODE OF 4500 TONS WERE MADE IN PHILOSOPHICAL TONE
AND MORE IN SORROW THAN IN ANGER. THERE IS NO DOUBT,
HOWEVER, THAT THERE IS TANGIBLE AND LINGERING DISAPPOINTMENT
ON HIS PART OVER THIS PROBLEM.

3.SECOND, PRESIDENT REMINDED US THAT NIGER HAS BEEN
TRYING FOR MANY MONTHS TO ARRANGE ANOTHER SESSION OF
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BILATERAL TALKS ON ASSISTANCE. HE DID NOT ASCRIBE BLAME
FOR THE DELAY IN HOLDING THEM BUT LEFT CLEAR IMPRESSION
HE FELT THIS MATTER WAS DRAGGING ON TOO LONG AND THAT HE
HOPED WE WOULD BE ABLE TO FIELD A DELEGATION IN THE NEAR
FUTURE.

4. COMMENT. ALL THIS SHOWS ONCE AGAIN THE PRESIDENT'S

COMMENDABLE TENDENCY TO IMMERSE HIMSELF DEEPLY IN DEVELOPMENT
MATTERS AND ACTIVITIES OF DONORS. AT SAMT TIME,
PRESIDENT'S ALL-EMBARACING INTEREST AND CONCERN ADD AN
IMPORTANT POLITICAL DIMENSION TO OUR RESPONSES ON AID
MATTERS WHICH WE WILL DO WELL NOT TO LOSE SIGHT OF AS
OUR PROGRAMS IN NIGER CONTINUE TO GROW.DAVISON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 27-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NIAMEY02956
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770228-0890
Format: TEL
From: NIAMEY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770614/aaaaammm.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: db55da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2022557
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALL ON PRESIDENT KOUNTCHE
TAGS: EAID, US, NG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/db55da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009